

JAN ANGEL STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2013 LEGISLATIVE REPORT 26TH DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I write this, negotiations are continuing at the state Capitol in a second special session over a state operating budget.

Despite what you may have heard, incoming revenue is up for the state. Washington is expected to take in an additional \$2 billion over the current budget cycle during the next two years. It could increase even more as our state's economy improves. That's an important point to remember in these budget negotiations.

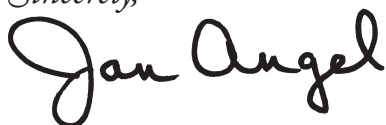
We need a budget that funds education with the first dollars, not the last dime; one that provides sufficient funding for our local schools so they can keep good teachers, takes care of the needs of our most vulnerable citizens, ensures public safety of our communities and neighborhood, provides essential fiscal reforms, and does not rely on unnecessary, job-killing tax increases.

I'm proud of the other accomplishments this session, including legislation to help our veterans, small businesses, and ferry commuters.

We still have much work ahead, including keeping tolls low on the Narrows Bridge. I invite you to read more about these goals in this newsletter.

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve you.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jan Angel



Rep. Jan Angel
26TH DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES:

- Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs (*Ranking Republican*)
- Health Care and Wellness
- Transportation

Download my Prime-sponsored Bill Report:
<http://tinyurl.com/AngelBillReport2013>

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET:

Ferries supported; Narrows Bridge refinancing will be studied

In addition to our local highways, the 26th District is largely dependent on two very important transportation components: our ferry system and the Narrows Bridge.

As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I focused much of my time this session on ensuring we not only maintain our existing ferry service, but invest in the future for these routes. I also sought numerous options to prevent toll increases on the Narrows Bridge.

Ferries

The 2013-15 transportation budget (Senate Bill 5024) keeps our local ferry runs and schedules intact, which is important for our local commuters. It also provides \$143.6 million for completion of two new 144-car ferries (both currently under construction). We secured \$35 million to fund ferry vessel fuel costs and \$11.5 million to increase crew levels mandated by the U.S. Coast Guard. These items were funded within existing revenue and without tax increases.



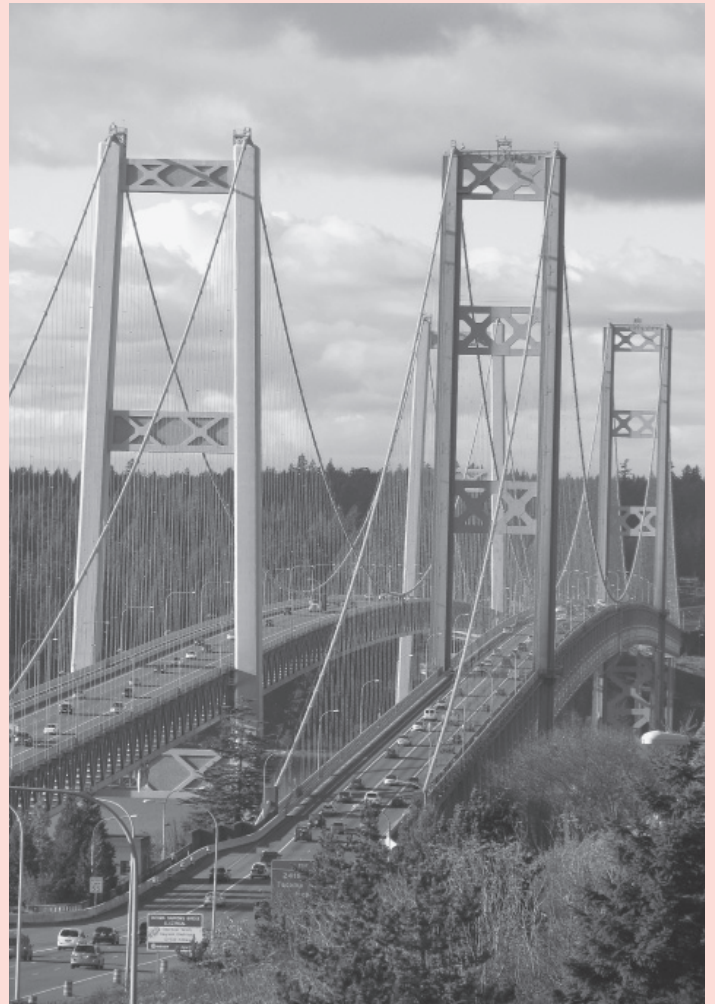
Narrows Bridge

I've been very concerned that toll increases on the Narrows Bridge could impose a further hardship on our local citizens who are still struggling in this fragile economy. That's why I suggested several options during the 2013 regular session to keep tolls low and prevent future increases. These options included:

- Selling the bridge naming rights (I introduced House Bill 1051);
- Extending financing to lock in tolls at current levels (I introduced House Bill 1165);
- Returning toll-setting authority to the Legislature (I authored Amendment 386 to House Bill 1864); and
- Testifying against toll increases before the Washington State Transportation Commission, which sets the rates.

Unfortunately, my proposals were rebuffed by the House majority party. The State Transportation Commission moved forward to increase tolls beginning July 1, despite my opposition. However, I was able to successfully weave a refinancing study provision into the state transportation budget.

This important provision directs a work group to be convened this year to identify and evaluate internal refinancing opportunities for the Narrows Bridge. The findings are to be reported to the Legislature by Dec. 31, 2013. By investigating refinancing options, it could help us prevent significant future toll increases on the bridge.



VETERANS: Angel bills would help returning veterans secure jobs

We can never do enough to thank our military men and women for their service and sacrifices to ensure a free nation. It was an honor to introduce and support legislation on their behalf to recognize and support our veterans.

House Bill 1537 – Authorizes veterans to claim a preference in public employment upon receipt of their separation orders. This measure, which I jointly sponsored with Sen. Steve O’Ban, would give our returning veterans a head start toward securing employment by changing current law, which has required the service member to be fully separated from the military before receiving the preferential hiring benefit. This measure passed the Legislature and was signed into law.

House Bill 1615 – Would provide a \$2,000 business and occupation tax credit for employers who hire unemployed veterans. I introduced this measure as an incentive to small businesses to hire our veterans. I believe this would help our businesses, who not only would receive the tax credit, but also the experience of

a veteran. In addition, we would save unemployment dollars by providing jobs for veterans. Although this bill did not make it out of the House Finance Committee, I will continue to push for its passage.

House Bill 1319 – Creates a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” recognition day on March 30 each year in Washington. This bill, which I co-sponsored, became law and finally gives our Vietnam Veterans the recognition and honor they so justly deserve.

Rep. Jan Angel was among those who spoke during a memorial service in the Legislature for the late Gov. Booth Gardner. Looking up to his family in the Senate gallery, Angel said: “He was one of the most generous and personable men to ever walk onto this campus. He gave his heart and compassion to the state of Washington. Governor Gardner, you did make a difference!”



JOBS: Angel legislation is getting Washington working and helping our unemployed

Although we are beginning to see signs of improvement in our state’s economy, with more than 240,000 people in Washington state out of work, we must focus our efforts on jobs. Two bills I sponsored that passed the Legislature will help secure future jobs and correct an oversight that prevented some people from receiving unemployment benefits. Both bills were signed into law.

House Bill 1056 – Allows a corporate officer, especially that of a very small business, to collect unemployment benefits if that officer’s wages with the corporation are less than 25 percent of his or her total wages. This bill was a result of a constituent coming to me, having her

own small business of which she was the corporate officer. This business was not making enough to support her, so she set it aside and went to work for someone else. She was then laid off, and because she was a “corporate officer” (even if it was just her), she could not claim unemployment. This bill corrects that error in the law.

House Bill 1074 – Increases the timeline for final plat approval submissions from nine years to 10 years for qualifying plats. This measure will give developers additional time to finance and complete the platting process. It will also help to create and retain jobs in our local communities.

OTHER LEGISLATION: An Angel on your side!

Here’s a list of other legislation I prime-sponsored this year that is on my “to-do” list in the future, since these bills did not make it through the entire legislative process this year.

House Bill 1053 – Would require local governments to provide written notification to property owners when zoning changes are proposed.

House Bill 1054 – Would allow the one-half-of-one percent public school construction allocation for art to be used for instruction-related equipment and technology.

House Bill 1190 – Would require drug testing for welfare applicants.

House Bill 1604 – Would reduce the frequency of local sales and use tax changes from four times to twice a year, which in turn would lessen the burden of reporting requirements for small businesses.

House Bill 1704 – Would require the State Parks and Recreation Commission to notify local government entities before closing or disposing of a state park, and allow those entities to purchase those lands to keep the parks open.

For a list of all of my bills, go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/AngelBillReport2013>

EDUCATION FUNDING: Our paramount duty as a state

I share the concerns of many who have watched layoff notices go out to great teachers in our local school districts. That's why I support the concept of funding education first, before any other appropriation in the state operating budget. It is not only our responsibility to meet the requirements of the state Supreme Court's McCleary decision, but our moral imperative and our constitutional duty to put the education of our kids first as our highest priority.

We do not need to raise taxes to fund our public schools. We can fund education without hurting private-sector

jobs. I support our teachers, our kids and our employers. Let's not pull the rug out from any one of them.

Let's fund education first!

VISIT MY WEB SITE

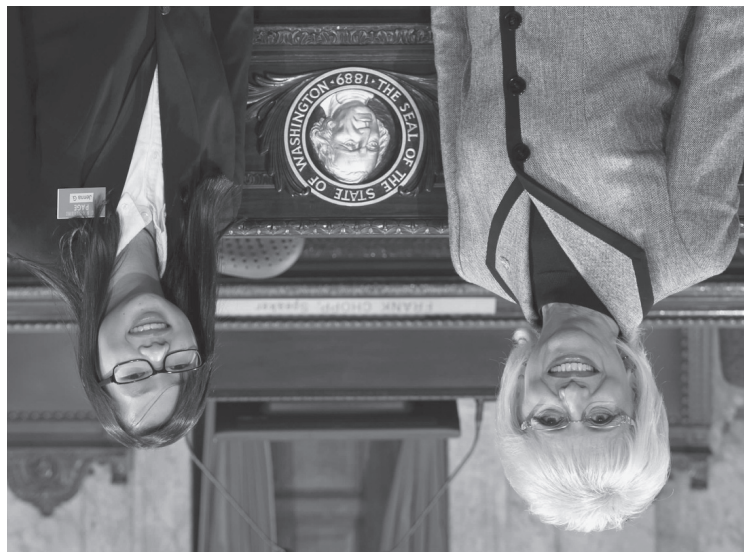
Sign up for my e-news updates, look up bills, watch videos, listen to my Capitol Report radio program, read my news releases and see where I stand on the issues affecting the 26th District. Go to:
www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/jan-angel.

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ANGEL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Kopachuck student has 'great experience' serving with Angel in the House

I want to thank Jenna Gordon, an eighth-grade student at Kopachuck Middle School near Gig Harbor, for serving as my page this year in the House. She was a delight and really worked hard during the week she served. "It's been like a milestone in my life because I've been really interested in government. I'm just so happy to be here," she told me.

Jenna, who is the daughter of Mike and Mikki Gordon of Fox Island, said she's considering whether to become a pediatric nurse or work in government.

If you know of someone between the ages of 14 and 16 who would like to be a page, please have them contact me, or go online at:
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/HousePageProgram.aspx>